

REGULAR MEETING OF PALMERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD IN BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.

Terry Costenbader, President of Council, called the duly advertised meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

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| Terry L. Costenbader, Council President | Jenny Y.C. Cheng Esq., Solicitor |
| Kris W. Hoffner, Council Vice-President | Don Herrmann, Mayor |
| Michael J. Ballard | Timothy Kromer, Police Chief |
| Andrew J. Hollywood | Donna I. McGarry, Manager/Secretary |
| Cory Kepner | Kimberly A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary |
| Richard L. Nothstein | |
| Holly F. Hausman Sell | |

VISITORS

Amy Strohl, 647 Franklin Avenue; Lisa Snell-Kern, 220 Edgemont Avenue; Jared Cebrosky, 445 Princeton Avenue; Marjorie and Joseph Federanich, 418 Princeton Avenue; Jarrad Hedes, Times News reporter; Drew Snowberger, TV-13 Cameraman; Court Stenographer, Esquire Solutions.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARING – VACATION OF FIRST STREET

Attorney Jenny Cheng opened the public hearing with a Court Stenographer present to take detailed minutes of the meeting. She provided a synopsis of events covered during the public hearing section of the May 26, 2022 meeting regarding the Vacation of First Street. Council consulted with the Borough Engineer regarding the impact of the vacation on future development. The Engineer’s comments were entered as Exhibit #4 and there were no comments from the public.

On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council ended the public hearing.

On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Kris Hoffner and Roll Call vote (Cory Kepner abstained), Council denied the request for vacation of First Street from Harvard Avenue to Alley L.

Roll Call Vote:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-----------|
| Kris Hoffner | Aye | Andrew Hollywood | Nay |
| Richard Nothstein | Aye | Cory Kepner | Abstained |
| Holly Sell | Nay | Terry Costenbader | Nay |
| Michael Ballard | Nay | | |

Secretary recorded 4 nay, 2 aye, 1 abstention; motion carried.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Joseph Federanich of 418 Princeton Avenue reminded residents of the upcoming Palmerton Day in the Park on July 3rd from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., adding there is no rain date for inclement weather. He also informed Council he would like a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Committee to discuss building permanent restroom facilities in the park.

Amy Strohl of 647 Franklin Avenue questioned Council about their progress with developing a rental property ordinance. Holly Sell informed Ms. Strohl that Donna McGarry and herself have taken part in a series of webinars, educating themselves on this subject. When complete they will speak with the Public Relations/Borough Code Committee, as well as the Solicitor to draft an ordinance, then follow up with Council.

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council approved the May 26, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

President Costenbader announced that a summary of the petitions and communications is available for public inspection in the Borough Office in the form of a weekly mail log.

REPORTS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND OFFICES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Treasurer's Report | 5. Moving Permit Report |
| 2. Zoning Officer Report | 6. Code Compliance Agent Report |
| 3. Police Department Report | 7. Street Supervisor Report |
| 4. Fire Chief Report | |

President Costenbader announced that these are on file in the Borough Office for public inspection during regular business hours.

MANAGERS REPORT

Donna McGarry reported:

1. Donna McGarry is awaiting final, signed documents from PennDOT. Once received the Engineer will be authorized to prepare the design for PennDOT's approval for the Delaware Avenue and Third Street traffic signal upgrade.
2. Grant approvals were received and the contractors for the Elmer Valo Basketball Court and Palmerton Entrance Beautification projects were notified.
3. The radar speed sign has been installed. The Public Works Department will be repositioning the sign to underneath a current speed limit sign near the entrance to Palmerton. Several other locations were approved for the radar sign, with a one year permit from PennDOT, and will be moved around to reduce speeding in those areas.

4. Every year Joe Snedecker of WNEP raises funds through a charity bicycle ride to benefit the St. Joseph's Center in Dunmore, and on July 27, early afternoon, the ride will be bringing him through Palmerton. Everyone is excited about his upcoming appearance and Donna McGarry, along with a few of the local organizations in town, have discussed ways to draw people out in support along his route. More details will follow on Facebook.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Richard Nothstein reported:

1. On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council adopted the American Rescue Plan fund projects as presented to Council in the amount of \$558,000.

Lisa Snell-Kern asked what departments were receiving funds and the amount of each. Donna McGarry provided the breakdown: Water projects - \$150,000; Police Department - \$100,000; Fire Department - \$100,000; Road/Park projects - \$208,000.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOROUGH CODE

Holly Sell reported:

1. Council discussed remediation options at 581 Mauch Chunk Road, including demolition of the structure. Attorney Cheng advised drafting a Petition for Court as a blighted property would give permission to the Borough to take action. She will work on the petition after the holiday, and in the meantime the property can be roped or taped off for safety reasons. The court order can be posted on the property, and if no trespassing signs are placed on the structure the Police Department should be asked to patrol there. Donna McGarry reported to Council that the Borough Engineer has already provided a review of the property as not salvageable.

BUILDINGS/RECREATION/PARKS

Cory Kepner reported:

1. On motion by Cory Kepner, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote (Terry Costenbader abstained from the Pace-Makers request), Council approved the following use requests. The approvals are subject to scheduling and availability.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Palmerton Rifle & Pistol Club	Rifle Range	Shooting Instruction
Pace-Makers Association	Park	Car Show 2023

2. On motion by Andrew Hollywood, second by Richard Nothstein and voice vote, Council approved the quote for the dog park fencing from Lipfert Lawn and Fence in the amount of \$0.

Andrew Hollywood thanked Donna McGarry for her hard work with obtaining the fencing quotes and moving ahead so quickly. He also thanked Lisa Snell-Kern for her time involved currently and looking ahead. Donna McGarry advised Council the WERA Field was renamed to the Douglas Wargo Senior Memorial Field by Borough Council back in the 90's. Kris Hoffner would like to recognize Chris Lipfert for his generous donation.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Kris Hoffner reported:

1. On motion by Kris Hoffner, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council approved the advertising of Ordinance 767 amending vehicles and traffic for a stop intersection.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

Andrew Hollywood had no report.

SEWER/SOLID WASTE/WATER

Michael Ballard had no report.

PERSONNEL

Terry Costenbader reported:

1. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council accepted Brian Uhnak's resignation.
2. On motion by Terry Costenbader, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council approved advertising for a Public Works position.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council approved payment of the invoices and the check register as presented.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Don Herrmann reported:

1. The dash and body camera training is complete. Thank you to Officer Leadbetter for all his hard work. A use policy has been written and will need to be reviewed by members of council before the cameras can officially be used.
2. The Police Department is now in possession of both Trek Police Bikes. A special thanks to the Schisler family and Dr. Sportelli for their generous contributions to the bike patrol program. I have so far received positive feedback from the community regarding the program.
3. July 3rd will be the first annual "Palmerton Day" in the park from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. with music, various activities and attendance from both the Palmerton Police and Fire Departments. July 17th will also be the 75th anniversary of our pool. If you are able please come out and enjoy the day with your family and appreciate how fortunate we are to have this gem right in our own backyard.

4. A few reminders to our residents. First, if you are in the park and you see something suspicious or malicious, please call 911. Signs are posted in the park reminding our residents to do this. 911 is a much more direct route for action than messaging on Facebook. Second, Borough owned parking lots are not storage areas for boats and other recreational vehicles nor are they repair shops or junkyards. Finally, please use extra caution when driving around town as summer brings an increased number of kids to the streets and alleys, playing and riding their bicycles.
5. Congratulations to Matt Anthony and Delina Rodriguez on their success in Orlando at the Special Olympics games.
6. Thank you to the United Veterans Organization for a memorable Memorial Day Parade and program in the Park.

In regard to the See Something, Say Something signs posted in the Park, Holly Sell asked if calling 911 is the best number to call or is there another that residents might feel better about using. Chief Kromer feels the non-emergency Comm Center number, 570-325-9111, would be best to post on the signs. It will be answered by the Comm Center, but using this number changes the priority of the call. Donna McGarry will have stickers made with the new number to affix to the current signs.

REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Timothy Kromer reported:

1. Body camera and dash camera policies have been finalized and they have been submitted to the Public Safety Committee for review and approval.
2. Officers O'Brien and Stern successfully completed a course for Enforcement of PA Vehicle Inspection Regulations. This will help ensure the safety of vehicles operating in the Borough.
3. Detective Buck is reviewing and purging evidence in the main evidence storage room, of which some evidence dates back decades. He has recently disposed of a large number of evidence items from the 1990s. He has done a phenomenal job of reviewing and purging evidence and he anticipates being completed by the fall.
4. Officer Shawn Leadbetter is currently attending a car seat tech course which will provide him with a National Child Passenger Safety certification. Once certified, he will be a valuable resource for the community to ensure car seats are installed properly and citizens can request a car seat check by Officer Leadbetter at any time. He will be conducting a car seat safety check in conjunction with our National Night Out activities on August 2nd.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. National Night Out was started in 1984 and has recently become much more popular and well-known, especially in Carbon County. Other local communities have participated for years. This year, we will be participating in National Night Out for the first time, and we hope that the community supports and enjoys the event. -Palmerton Police Department, Palmerton

Municipal Fire Company, Palmerton Community Ambulance Association, Carbon County Sheriff's Office, and Carbon County District Attorney's Office will all be in attendance. The event is still in the planning stages and more information will be published as the event is finalized.

5. On June 16th, Officer Leadbetter, Officer Stern, and Chief Kromer attended the First Annual Carbon County First Responders Expo. It was hosted by the Carbon County Chamber of Commerce at the Mahoning Drive In. The event was a great success, and we had many positive interactions with the residents of Carbon County. I want to thank the Chamber for their invitation and organization of the event, and we look forward to attending it in the future.
6. Thank you to the United Veterans Organization for the opportunity to be part of the Memorial Day program in the park. It was an honor to speak to the town.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Cory Kepner informed Council the evidence room at the Police Department has been cleaned and organized and the bicycle room has been cleaned up as well. We are waiting for design information from the architect on improvements to the Police station, and once received we can obtain pricing.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Richard Nothstein presented a check to the Concourse Club for \$1,000 to help with the cost to replace the American Flags on Delaware Avenue. He explained the funds came from the committee honoring Rhett Hernandez and Daniel Dailey. Donna McGarry announced the new flags have arrived and will be put up before the July 4th Holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Richard Nothstein, second by Michael Ballard and voice vote, Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues
Recording Secretary

Donna I. McGarry
Manager/Secretary